Proposal to amend Anti-Defection Act

958. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend Anti-Defection Act; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) The Committee which has been constituted to examine, inter alia, various aspects of anti-defection law has suggested certain amendments to the law. The matter is under consideration.

Recommendations of Law Minister's Conference regarding pending cases in courts

959. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND Justice be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main recommendations of the Law Minister's Confrence about producing arrears of pending cases; and

(b) what follow up steps Government are taking in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) The Law Minister's Conference held in July 1990 inter alia suggested proper-screening of cases to be filled by Government; Careful screening of section 80 CPO Notices to redress genuine grievances of citizens at that stage itself, adherence to principles of natural justice in administration encouragement of institution of Lok Adalats, expeditious filling up of vacancies in judiciary and modernisation of judicial administration.

(b) The suggestion would be examined for their implementation.

Reduction in the overhead cost added to C.I.F. cost of imported edible oils by the STC

960. SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the overhead cost added to the c.i.f. cost of imported edible oils by the State Trading Corporation including storage charges etc. before these are sent for packing and distribution to traders for sale; and

(b) whether Government propose to reduce the charges so that the benefit could be passed on to the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) As per audited accounts of STC for the year 1989-90, the recovery towards overhead was at the rate of Rs. 259/- plus Rs. 36/- towards service margin aggregating to Rs. 295/- PMT of the oil sold.

(b) STC's service margin at 1 per cent of the landed cost of purchase charged till 1988-89, was reduced to 0.5 per cent of the cif cost of Sales from 1989-90.

Advances made by SBI to Indian Express group of newspapers

961. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI MANORAMA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Bank of India has advanced Rs. 3.5 crore to the Indian Express Newspapers (Bombya) Pvt Ltd. any security against all banking norms; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by Government against the bank officials responsible for this lapse?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) State Bank of

India have reported that they have advanced a sum of Rs. 3.50 crores to Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd, after due scrutiny and without violating banking norms.

Iron ore deposits of Tiruvanamalai in Tamil Nadu

962. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimate of iron ore deposits in Tiruvanamalai in Tamil Nadu;

(b) what is the iron content in these deposits;

(c) what is the approximate sponge iron demand in Tamil Nadu at present;

(d) what would be the estimated sponge iron demand at the end of the Eighth Plan Period; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to set up a sponge iron plant in Tamil Nadu to use iron ore of Tiruvanamalai and Neyveli lignite and to avoid import of iron scrap to manufacture sponge iron, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI) (a) A total reserve of 62 million tonnes of unclassified oxidised and unoxidised magnetite ore has been estimated in Kavuthimalai-Vediappanmalai - Vellimalai situated 8 flm. north-east of Tiruvanamalai Town in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The iron content of these deposits is 39 per cent on an average.

(c) Sponge iron is a partial substitute of melting scrap used by secondary sector. Total requirement of scrap by the units in Tamil Nadu as registered with MSTC was 2.56 lakh tonnes for 1989-90. On the basis of 30 per cent substitution of scrap by sponge iron the demand for sponge iron can be assessed at 75,000 tonnes in this state.

(d) Estimated demand of sponge Iron at the end of VIII Plan, for the country is around 5 million tonnes.

(e) M/s. Tamil Nadu Sponge Iron, Ltd., have proposed to set up a sponge iron plant based on Neyveli Lignite with the capacity of 30,000 tpa at Salem. The engineering and consultancy for this plant is being proved by Sponge Iron Ltd., a Government of India Undertaking.

Aid India consortium assistance to India

963. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: (Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the aggregate assistance likely to be received by Government from the Aid India Consortium this year;

(b) by what percentage the aid is likely to fall short of the level promised in 1989;

(c) what is its likely impact on the balance of payment problem and debt servicing besides the country's developmental programme; and

(d) in what manner Government propose to meet the resource constraints?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The indications of probable aid levels pointed to commitments level of U.S. $ 6.0--6.5 billion for 1990-91. This did not include pledges of the one donor country, which was to be announced later. In 1989-90, an indicative commitment level of U.S. $ 6.7 billion was announced. On comparable basis, the aid indications this year are of the same level as last year.

(c) and (d) Government do not regard foreign borrowings as a substitute for resource mobilisation through domestic efforts and have taken a number of steps to bring about improvement in revenue receipts and eliminate inessential and low priority expenditure, to boost exports and to increase invisible earnings, to ensure efficient import substitution and to reduce dependency on borrowed funds for financing expenditure.